



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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August 29, 2011

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## **MOTION TO OPPOSE ANY EFFORTS TO PROTECT A FOOTBALL STADIUM PROJECT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES UNLESS OTHER PROJECTS AND VITAL PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT FACILITIES ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE EXPEDITED DEVELOPMENT PROCESS (ITEM NO. 52-A, SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA OF AUGUST 30, 2011)**

Item No. 52-A on the August 30, 2011 Supplemental Agenda is a motion by Mayor Antonovich to oppose any efforts to protect a football stadium from environmental challenges unless hospitals, libraries, schools, transportation projects and other vital public and non-profit facilities are also included in the expedited development process.

### **Existing Law**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), among other provisions, requires: 1) lead agencies with the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a proposed project to prepare a negative declaration, mitigated declaration, or environmental impact report (EIR) for this action, unless the project is exempt from CEQA; and 2) each planning agency to prepare and the legislative body of each county and city adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the county or city, and of any land outside its boundaries which in the planning agency's judgment bears relation to its planning.

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### **Proposed Los Angeles Football Stadium Project**

According to various news media reports, supporters for a new NFL football stadium in downtown Los Angeles are lobbying State lawmakers to create special legislation to expedite the regulatory review process and limit legal challenges to the project. The developers of the stadium proposal contend that legislation is necessary to define the process for resolving legal challenges to the project on environmental grounds will be essential to moving forward in the next coming months. Absent a legislative solution, proponents allege that a significant level of economic benefit that would be derived from a football stadium could be jeopardized. **As of August 29, 2011, no legislation relating to this project has been introduced.**

On August 26, 2011, the Senate Select Committee on Sports and Entertainment held an informational hearing to examine the downtown NFL stadium proposal, including land use and environmental concerns and a review of the number of jobs that could be created by the stadium project. State Senator Kevin de Leon, Chair, Senate Select Committee, cited concerns about whether the proposal could be thoroughly examined by September 9, 2011, which is the end of the first year of the regular 2011-12 legislative session, and indicated that a special session could be called to consider the legislation.

Additionally, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) indicates in its review of an economic analysis of the downtown NFL stadium proposal prepared for the City of Los Angeles and a second economic analysis prepared on behalf of the developer of the project, that both reports overstated the potential for economic growth, new jobs, and tax revenue that could be directly attributed to the proposal. The LAO also indicates that most academic studies find little to no economic growth associated with new sports venues, although localized improvements are possible.

### **County-opposed ABX3 81 (Chapter 30, Statutes 2009)**

In 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger signed ABX3 81 (Chapter 30, Statutes 2009) that granted the proposed City of Industry Football Stadium and Entertainment Complex an exemption from requirements of the CEQA. ABX3 81 also exempted actions taken by the City of Industry from any legal requirements concerning a general plan, or consistency with a general plan, as specified.

The County opposed ABX3 81, and noted that, while there are many reasons to support the construction of a new NFL football stadium in Los Angeles County, there are also many reasons to insist that such a project be subject to the same environmental regulations applicable to most any other projects in California such as hospitals, police stations, freeways and other major infrastructure projects. The County also expressed

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concern about the adequacy of the City of Industry's review of the potential environmental effects of the proposed stadium project, including noise, fire, air quality, traffic, seismic analysis, hydrology and water quality effects of the project. Furthermore, the County contented that an exemption for the proposed City of Industry Football Stadium and Entertainment Complex from the long established requirements of CEQA was overly broad and not justified.

**Because there is no existing Board policy to oppose legislation to protect a football stadium from environmental challenges unless hospitals, libraries, schools, transportation projects and other vital public and non-profit facilities are also included in the expedited development process, support for this motion is a matter for Board policy determination.**

WTF:RA  
MR:LY:GA:er

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel